

CHAPTER OVERVIEW:

This chapter will discuss the rights and responsibilities of the Placement Resources.

- 3.1 Introduction of the Rights and Responsibilities of the Placement Resource
- 3.2 Rights of the Placement Resource
- 3.3 Responsibilities of the Placement Resource

3.1 Introduction of the Rights and Responsibilities of Placement Resource

As temporary substitute parents, placement providers are closest to the child on a day-to-day basis and are, therefore, a vital member of the Family Support Team. They are in an excellent position to evaluate the child's current needs and ensure they are being met in the foster family or through resources in the community.

As team members with a unique perspective of the child, placement providers can contribute a special knowledge to the other team members, including information about the child's behavior, relationship with playmates and other members of the foster/kinship family, and adjustment to school and to the neighborhood.

By their observations of the child's relationship with his/her birth parent(s) and the child's reactions to visitation, placement providers can enhance work with the birth parent(s). In some instances, placement providers may also serve as actual role models for the birth parent(s).

3.2 Rights of the Placement Resource

Placement Resources have the right:

- To have pre-service training and continuing education for their role as placement providers;
- To be provided sufficient information concerning the child and his/her family situation to enable them to make an informed decision about their ability or inability to participate in the case;
- To be involved as a team member in receiving complete information on a child and family, preplacement activities and case planning, as well as staffings and court proceedings;
- To have a clear understanding of their role as well as the role of other team members in achieving case goals;
- To be provided appropriate reimbursement or other financial benefits for services provided foster/kinship children in their care;

- To continue their own family patterns and routines;
- To family privacy;
- To request the removal of a foster child from their home, with notice;
- To be promptly informed by the Division of any complaint against their home or of any condition or problem in their home which adversely affects their “approved” status as placement providers and to receive guidance and support from the Division toward resolution of the condition or problem;
- To have access to a grievance procedure when differences arise with the agency which cannot be resolved;
- To be kept informed by the Division of programs, services, and policies including changes which relate to out-of-home care.

3.3 Responsibilities of the Placement Resource

Placement Provider Responsibilities include:

- To participate in out-of-home care provider pre-service training and continuing education programs designed to enhance their ability to care for foster/kinship children;
- To participate in Division and community resources, as well as court activities as a team member who has pertinent information based on day-to-day knowledge of the child in their care;
- To assist the child and the Division in planning and effecting the child’s case plan objective for permanency;
- To provide a nurturing family life experience to the child, including guidance, stimulation, affection, and appropriate discipline (which shall not include any form of corporal punishment);
- To provide food, clothing (appropriate for the season, child’s age and current styles), shelter, and personal care;
- To provide for the education of children and to encourage the expression of the child’s strengths and special talents;

- To “act as the parent” in public school planning and placement if the student has disabilities. Part of that responsibility is to give consent and written permission at the time of initial evaluation and/or placement for special education and related services and at the time of reevaluation when additional assessments are required. (This applies only to foster/relative providers. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will assign a “surrogate parent” for youth in residential facilities.)
- To cooperate with the Division in arranging for routine medical and dental care as well as ensuring that the child receives appropriate care during any illness;
- To maintain a record of health and health care, especially immunization records;
- To keep a life book for the child to record developmental progress as well as regular and special events in the child’s life while placed in their home.
- To maintain absolute confidentiality of private information about the foster child and his birth family;
- To support the case plan for visitation, including family contacts and communication through phone calls and letters as appropriate;
- To maintain open communication with all team members;
- To notify the Division of any pertinent conditions, problems or major family changes;
- To provide the child with opportunity for recreational activities and for participation in family, school, and community activities;
- To provide information to the worker and maintain a record of observed behaviors that will be useful in case planning and to participate in staffings;
- To validate the child’s feelings regarding their birth parent;
- To assist in preparing the child for any move that must be made.

MEMORANDA HISTORY: